

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Please cancel claims 19 and 29 without prejudice. A marked up copy of the claims showing additions and deletions is set forth in Appendix A.

P<sup>1</sup>  
1. (Amended) A method of treating at least one bone or cartilage condition which comprises administering to an animal a therapeutically effective amount of an agent comprising creatine, or an analogue or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to treat bone or cartilage conditions, wherein the agent is essentially free of one or more of dihydrotriazine; dicyano-diamide; or creatinine.

P<sup>2</sup>  
22. (Amended) A method of promoting growth and mineralization of bone or cartilage cells and tissues which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an agent comprising creatine pyruvate or an analogue thereof, to promote growth and mineralization of bone or cartilage therein, wherein the agent is essentially free of one or more of dihydrotriazine; dicyano-diamide; or creatinine.

23. (Amended) A method of improving acceptance and osseous integration of bone implants which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of an agent comprising (i) at least one of (1) creatine or an analogue thereof and (2) a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of creatine or analog thereof, and (ii) pyruvate to improve acceptance and osseous integration of bone implants.

24. (Amended) A method for accelerating healing in a subject having a defect in bone or cartilage tissue caused by trauma or surgery, which method comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of (i) at least one of (1) a creatine compound or analogue thereof, (2) a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of creatine or analog thereof, and (3) a creatine kinase, and (ii) pyruvate.

P<sup>3</sup>  
28. (Amended) A method of treating osteoarthritis unrelated to weight gain or weight loss, which comprises administering to an animal a therapeutically effective amount of an agent comprising creatine pyruvate or an analogue thereof, to treat the osteoarthritis unrelated to weight gain or weight loss.

P<sup>4</sup>  
30. (Amended) A method of treating at least one bone or cartilage condition which comprises administering to an animal a therapeutically effective amount of an agent

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comprising creatine pyruvate or an analogue thereof, to treat at least one of osteoarthritis and periodontitis.

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